

1. A network communication system for transferring a call from a local user to a plurality of node users, comprising:

a local device configured to transmit call data representative of the call and generate a call indicator;

a plurality of nodes in electrical communication with the local device and configured to

5 generate a ring message in response to receipt of the call indicator, each node having,

an output device for displaying the ring message, and

an input device for entering response data in response to the ring message; and

a server in electrical communication with the local device and the plurality of nodes to regulate call data and response data.

2. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein the call data comprises text data.

3. The network communication system of claim 1, further comprising a modem in

15 electrical communication with the local device, the modem configured to establish a carrier connection with a remote device to receive the call from the remote device, the local device configured to convert call data into a format suitable for transfer from the local device to a node.

20 4. The network communication system of claim 3, wherein the modem maintains a carrier connection with the remote device during transfer of the call.

5. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein each node is configured to generate response data representative of node user inputs and transfer the response data to the local device to thereby enable real time communication between nodes and the local device.

6. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein the call indicator includes
5 identification data for identifying the call.

7. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein each node includes a node module having,

a call indicator module configured to recognize receipt of a call indicator;
a ring message generation module configured to generate a ring message displayable on the output device in response to receipt of the call indicator;
a user interface module configured to recognize node user responses to the ring message; and
a response generation module configured to generate response data representative of node user responses.
15

8. The network communication system of claim 6, wherein the node module comprises a browser for interfacing with the world wide web.

20 9. The network communication system of claim 6, wherein the ring message generation module generates a visual display on the output device.

10. The network communication system of claim 6, wherein the ring message generation module generates an audible indicator on the output device.

11. The network communication system of claim 6, wherein the ring message generation module generates input options to accept and decline the call.

5

12. The network communication system of claim 10, wherein the ring message generation module generates input options to request further identification data on the call.

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
APR 10 1992
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

13. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein the local computer includes a local module having,
a node selection module configured to transmit the call indicator to selected nodes;
a response module configured to identify response data from a node; and
a call transfer module configured to transmit call data to a node in response to receiving response data indicating an acceptance of the call.

15

14. The network communication system of claim 1, wherein the local modem is capable of communicating through TDD, ITU, and VOICE signals.

15. A method for transferring a call across a network system, comprising:
generating a call indicator indicative of a call;
transmitting the call indicator across the network system to a plurality of nodes;
displaying a ring message on the nodes in response to the call indicator;
generating affirmative response data indicative of an acceptance of the call by an
5 accepting node;
transmitting call data representative of the call to the accepting node; and
the accepting node responding to call data.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the call data comprises text data.
17. The method of claim 15 further comprising selecting the plurality of nodes to receive the call indicator.
- 15 18. The method of claim 17, wherein selecting the plurality of nodes is based on predetermined grouping of the nodes.
19. The method of claim 15 wherein transmitting call data representative of the call to the accepting node prevents transmission of the call data to another node.
20. The method of claim 15 further comprising transferring call data from the accepting node to another node.

21. The method of claim 15 further comprising receiving the call from a remote device through a modem.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

the modem establishing a carrier connection with the remote device;

5 maintaining the carrier connection during transfer of the call to a node; and

a local device converting the call into call data suitable for transmission across the

network .

23. The method of claim 15 wherein the call indicator includes identification data for

40 identifying the call.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising a node requesting additional

identification data.

15 25. The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying ring messages on output

devices of the nodes, the ring messages including identification of the call and options to accept

and decline the call.

26. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for performing a method for transferring a call across a network, the method comprising:

generating a call indicator indicative of a call;
transmitting the call indicator across the network system to a plurality of nodes;
5 displaying a ring message on the nodes in response to the call indicator;
generating affirmative response data indicative of an acceptance of the call by an accepting node; and
transmitting call data representative of the call to the accepting node.

10 27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the response data comprises

text data.

15 28. The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising selecting the plurality of nodes to receive the call indicator.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein selecting the plurality of nodes is based on predetermined grouping of the nodes.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein transmitting call data 20 representative of the call to the accepting node prevents transmission of the call data to another node.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising transferring call data from the accepting node to another node.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the call indicator includes identification data for identifying the call.

5

33. The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising displaying ring messages on output devices of the nodes, the ring messages including identification of the call and options to accept and decline the call.

DRAFT - PENDING EXAMINER REVIEW